

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-17, 19-21 and 23-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Anvekar et al. ("Anvekar"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002-0068610. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Each of the claims of the present invention includes, among other things, the selection or output of one of a plurality of audio signals overlaid on another audio signal.

In contrast, Anvekar discloses the output of one audio signal at a time, not two as in the claimed inventions, where one signal is overlaid on top of another.

As such, Anvekar does not disclose each and every element of the claimed inventions and, therefore, cannot anticipate the subject matter of claims 1-17, 19-21 and 23-48. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 18, 22, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anvekar (claim 22) or a combination of Anvekar with U.S. Patent No. 6,298,218 to Lowe et al ("Lowe")(claims 22, 49 and 50). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully point out that each of these claims depends on an independent claim discussed above and is, therefore, patentable over Anvekar for the reasons set forth above. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Lowe does not make up for the deficiencies of Anvekar discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claims 18, 22, 49 and 50 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the disclosure in Anvekar taken separately or in combination with Lowe as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 18, 22, 49 and 50.

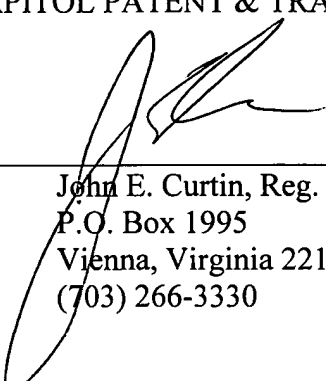
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3777 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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